

NOVEMBER 19, 2025 SPECIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

CALLED TO ORDER

Mr. Gildea: Called meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL

Ms. Tovar: Jim Gildea; Kim Tovar; Erica Nuzzo; Dan Foley; Melissa Mongillo.

Karla Malerba, absent; Rebecca O'Hara, absent; Ivey Speight, absent and Ken Marcucio, absent.

Mr. Gildea: Let the record reflect, we have five people. We have enough folks to discuss a quorum.

Also Present:

Dr. Matthew Conway, Superintendent of Schools

SPECIAL MEETING

Mr. Gildea: This is a special meeting, so we can't add to the agenda.

PUBLIC PORTION

Mr. Lionetti: Good evening. I'm Tom Lionetti, 76 Sunset Drive, Derby. I'm here to address the Board something that means a lot to me. Derby's colors are red and white. They've been traditionally red and white all my life, all my father's life. I went to a football game a couple weeks ago and saw all the cheerleaders in black and red. I saw all the coaches wore black and red. We're red and white not black and grays. As I yelled that down with five of my buddies. We've been going to games for 50 or 60 years now. The coach turned around and said, go home. We go every week and we support. Derby has a lot of tradition, a lot of pride. Ms. Payden dedicated that fieldhouse for everything, for Derby pride, red and white. I just want to ask this Board, why are we not red and white. Why is black and red so dominant in our colors. That's not our colors. I can't even think our colors not being red and white. I'd like this Board please take some action and wear red and white like we're supposed to, not black and red. That's all I want to do.

Mr. Gildea: Thank you Tom. Thank you. And as I mentioned earlier, we will look into that.

Mr. Lionetti: I appreciate it too. Because it bothers me. It bothers all my buddies.

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Mr. Foley: We went through this in 2017 and we passed our policy on it 20 percent. Why isn't it being followed?

Mr. Gildea: A it didn't include coaches and it didn't include outer garments. So, those are the things we'll have to look into. That's all. Anyone else on public portion. But the policy doesn't include coaches. And that's the big part of it who he's talking about.

Mr. Lionetti: My principal was Martin Chromick. If you didn't wear red and white, you wouldn't have gotten on the field.

Mr. Gildea: I understand.

Mr. Lionetti: That's all.

Mr. Gildea: Anyone else from the public. At this point, Lazarae, we're going to ask to do you report. I don't know if you have a report because you were on our counsel of the whole meeting and then we postponed that. I can't add you to the agenda, but we all want to hear from you.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Ms. Devalle: I'm just going to recap some of the major points that I made at the last meeting. Something that happened was the pep rally. It turned out to be a success again. It was very lively. The cheerleaders did the class yell. Every student either participated in spirit week prior or overall, it was just a great experience. That led into Homecoming. And Homecoming was a very big success. We raised around \$2,300 and that also included some changes. It was \$20 per ticket instead of the \$15. And we also included upon entry a raffle ticket. And you can put your raffle ticket in the four different buckets which have gift cards for it. Some were like Amazon, Chipotle, it was like \$30, \$20, so, you can win your money back that you spent on the ticket. So, that was for the increase for the price of the tickets, which I think motivated more student to want to come. And we also cut the DJ. We made a special playlist that students put songs that they would want to hear. And we had Butterworth like in the middle of the gym and just taking requests from students, which I think turned out great. Because students wanted to hear what they actually wanted to hear and kind of got in the say of what we wanted to do at homecoming. We also want to conclude that fall sports are coming to an end. For example, like the Oxford versus Derby game at Oxford. And how powderpuff is now here having the game on Friday.

Mr. Gildea: The Powderpuff game is this Friday?

Ms. Delvalle: Yes.

Mr. Gildea: You got some pretty good shoes to fill.

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Ms. Delvalle: I hope.

Mr. Gildea: Did you play last year?

Ms. Delvalle: Yes, I played all four years.

Mr. Gildea: You guys did pretty good last year.

Ms. Delvalle: Yes. It was great. Also, I want to mention something major that happened this week was the Rachel challenge, which I've heard a lot of feedback from not only my friends but just with other peers and how it was kind of touching like a very traumatic and tragic story that happened. But it kind of had students reflect. And I feel like that should be something that is brought up almost every year. Something that students really touched upon and wanted to talk about and wanted to be more kind. They want to spread awareness to Rachel's challenge. Which had a major effect upon us students.

Last but not least, today was the CIAC leadership summit, which I feel like there was a lot to look. I learned a lot from that, which I think there are some things that we could actually use from there. There's something called 20 to 10. And it was basically, 20 feet you look at a person, at ten feet you say hello. That's something that Cheshire does to allow students to get like out of their fears of saying hello. And I feel like that's something we can apply to Derby and just little things like that, so we can have more unity within the school. And not feel like have students feel more isolated.

Mr. Gildea: Thank you. I'd be interested in hearing your thoughts maybe at the next meeting. Some of us who serve on the expulsion committee, there's been an incredible amount. It seemed like more expulsions this year than in previous years. So, I'd be curious, talk to your peers and you know, maybe next month talk a little bit about school safety. Suggestions you think we could do to reduce the amount of that.

Ms. Delvalle: Of course.

Mr. Foley: Do you feel that social media is causing some of these problems in the school, the anger problem that we're seeing with some of these students?

Ms. Delvalle: I feel like social media does have an effect. But I also feel like, a lot of he said, she said, especially in person. Like, once you hear a remark from one person, I feel like the whole school kind of gangs up on it in a way. So, it kind of results to those problems.

Mr. Foley: Do you see any problem with the CART system that we use?

Ms. Delvalle: No, not that I noticed. Thank you.

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Mr. Gildea: Thank you for coming here.

Ms. Delvalle: Thank you. You're welcome.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Gildea: I'll just say folks, if you want to have one that's fine. There's a Best Buddy Coordinator, three paraeducators and all of our reappointments for coaches.

Ms. Tovar: No, I don't feel like we need one.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW HIRES

Mr. Gildea: Not include the LRU one, the last one, the LRU paraeducator. And again, the rest of them are reappointments.

Dr. Conway: If you don't mind, one caveat on that last one. If and when we receive notification from the State, that we are allowed to move forward then we'd like to move forward just to cover the spot.

Mr. Gildea: We do that with a separate policy. We can do the appointment list and then we can make another motion for that approval of the Little Raider's University Paraeducator pending.

Dr. Conway: Pending.

Motion that the Board of Education approve the Appointment List of New Hires as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools except for the last item for paraeducator for LRU. Passed with a motion made by Ms. Kim Tovar and a second by Ms. Erica Nuzzo.

Jim Gildea	Yes
Kim Tovar	Yes
Melissa Mongillo	Yes
Erica Nuzzo	Yes
Dan Foley	Yes
Rebecca O'Hara	Absent
Karla Malerba	Absent
Ken Marcucio	Absent
Ivey Speight	Absent

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Ms. Tovar: Making motion.

Ms. Nuzzo: Second.

Mr. Gildea: Motion carries.

Motion that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to approve the hiring, once approval has been made for the LRU Paraeducator position. Passed with a motion made by Ms. Kim Tovar and a second by Mr. Dan Foley.

Jim Gildea	Yes
Kim Tovar	Yes
Melissa Mongillo	Yes
Erica Nuzzo	Yes
Dan Foley	Yes
Rebecca O’Hara	Absent
Karla Malerba	Absent
Ken Marcucio	Absent
Ivey Speight	Absent

Ms. Tovar: Making motion.

Mr. Foley: Second.

Mr. Gildea: Motion carries.

Dr. Conway: Online with us is Jamie Bartone, the head girls’ basketball coach. This is a reappointment for her. But Jamie thanks for joining us tonight. Appreciate it.

Ms. Bartone: Yes, nice to be here.

Mr. Gildea: Thank you very much.

Ms. Bartone: Yes, I’m looking forward to it. Absolutely.

Mr. Russo: Introducing and welcoming Angela Milewski. We are very proud to present Angela Milewski our new Special Education Supervisor. Angela will be joining our administration team leading personnel team.

Dr. Ciccarini: Further welcoming Angela and she will be a great addition to the school district. We are excited for Angela to be joining the team.

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Mr. Gildea: On behalf of the Board, welcome to Derby. We look forward to seeing and working with you. Congratulations.

Mr. Russo: Welcoming and introducing Serena Marinko as our new Learning Center paraeducator.

BIRTHDAYS

Ms. Kim Tovar and Ms. Jennifer Olson

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS REPORT

Dr. Conway: You have my report. In the interest of time tonight, we'll be presenting the achievement data in a couple more agenda items. Could I yield my time to that if that's okay.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Mr. Gildea: Dr. Rafferty, we will defer to the reports. But you're part, you got a whole big section, Dr. Rafferty.

Dr. Rafferty: Yeah, I'm very excited.

Mr. Gildea: Thank you.

FACILITIES REPORT

Mr. Hoffman: All right. We'll get right into it.

At Bradley School we had our State of Connecticut boiler inspection on both boilers. Boilers passed inspection. There was no deficiencies to report.

At Irving school, roof top one, two and gym rooftop unit, we did the winter service on all the units. Belts, filters, cleaned the coils, checked the freeze stat. All units turned out okay. We did that in house. Irving school, 1A intercom, lower lever had no speaker. We did install a ceiling mounted speaker above the classroom door.

The middle school chiller. The chiller is scheduled to be picked up next week on the 24th. We've only been using it now about an hour a day. So, we can get by now without it. So, we will get picked up.

Service pump service at DMS was completed. Tank was flushed. Pumps was serviced. The building management system upgrade, the ABS Compass 2.0 is now in this building up and running. It's on Windows 11 server, we have communication with all devices now.

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Schedules were fixed. It's been working great so far. Also, the main entrance camera visiting system was replaced due to the system failed. Staff couldn't see IDs or make out who was at the front door. So, the new system is rated for direct sunlight as the old camera was not. So, this should help a little longer. We purchased the camera and we had Calvert Safe install the system. By purchasing it, we saved about \$1,500.

Derby High School, G05, HVAC Units were replaced with a mini split two-zone system with a heat pump. I'm happy to say that Ms. Shea over there, the room is about 70 degrees now, maintaining and she's very happy. G06, cabinet heater was replaced. And she's maintaining about 70/71 now. That's all I have.

Mr. Gildea: On Monday next week, there's a capital planning commission meeting. And I know the \$6.5 million dollar project passed but there was approximately \$400,000 of money that they have. Some of the other departments like they're replacing the locks at Derby Library. And then other projects they're repairing the HVAC, exposed for \$100,000. So, there's a list of projects that we'll be voting on Monday. And there still is approximately \$200,000 of available capital planning meeting. And I didn't know if the school system needs any I should be advocating before Monday's capital planning.

Mr. Hoffman: Yes.

Mr. Gildea: And I looked at the five-year plan that we had and the maintenance. If I had two or three things that I would advocate for on Monday, the most important ones, I'll try to be helpful and a resource on Monday.

Dr. Conway: We're meeting tomorrow to review that list Brian sent out today.

Mr. Gildea: Because I want to be able to advocate for that on Monday. I saw the maintenance truck. I get that there's a bunch of things on there, but I think we're better off if we just went to that meeting.

Ms. Tovar: I have something that I'd like to add if you guys can discuss. The security systems or security cameras the parking lots that I discussed a couple times over the last couple of years. If that's something, if there is extra funding I think that that's something very important.

Mr. Gildea: I like that. We had the one area out there that you were worried about, right?

Ms. Tovar: Yeah. There's a couple.

Mr. Hoffman: Yeah, we had walked in and got some quotes for the back parking lot, the back of the high school, we do have some quotes in there.

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Mr. Gildea: All right. Again, I would definitely get together and look at. Again, there's \$200,000 of available money. I'm sure they won't give us all the \$200,000, but I'd like to think that we'll be able to get something. So, let me know.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN DRAKE UNIVERSITY AND DERBY MIDDLE SCHOOL AND THE UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN DRAKE UNIVERSITY AND BRADLEY SCHOOL

Dr. Conway: We can combine them in a single motion. So, if you had an opportunity to look at it. Dr. Rafferty is here to answer any questions that people have on it. But it will be for both schools.

Motion that the Board of Education make a recommendation to approve the memorandum of understanding between Drake University and Bradley and Derby Middle School for professional services. Passed with a motion made by Ms. Kim Tovar and a second by Ms. Melissa Mongillo.

Jim Gildea	Yes
Kim Tovar	Yes
Melissa Mongillo	Yes
Erica Nuzzo	Yes
Dan Foley	Yes
Rebecca O'Hara	Absent
Karla Malerba	Absent
Ken Marcucio	Absent
Ivey Speight	Absent

Ms. Tovar: Making motion.

Ms. Mongillo: Second.

Mr. Gildea: That is in your packet. Dr. Rafferty, if you just want to give a brief overview of what this means.

Dr. Rafferty: Sure. I had mentioned it casually in a former, because we're in negotiations. But the Deluca Foundation, which was the founders of Subway had given money to Drake University, with two conditions. It had to be either a school in Florida or a school in Connecticut. And we grabbed the only two spots in the State of Connecticut. And it

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basically has two programs. It's about character counts is their big nationwide program. And part of it inside there is Kindness 101. It cost us no money. They'll provide free training for staff, for parents and they will provide us with money to incentivize any positive reinforcement programs we develop. So, it felt like an, no way we could lose so I brought it to you saying, we'd like your support. And our principals at the middle school and Bradley are to really invest in it.

Mr. Gildea: I did have one question about the agreement. It's up to 40 attendees. Is that between both schools? Is that per school?

Dr. Rafferty: That's per school. They're treated separately. We were trying to wrangle a little bit more into it but we think we're in a good place for that.

Mr. Gildea: When I read it, it's primarily staff. But then you said staff, family.

Dr. Rafferty: There is a parent component. That's part of it.

Mr. Gildea: Motion carries.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the October 7th, 2025 Committee of the Whole, October 16th, 2025 Special Board of Education meeting and the October 23rd, 2025 Special Board of Education Meeting. Passed with a motion made by Ms. Kim Tovar and a second by Mr. Dan Foley.

Jim Gildea	Yes
Kim Tovar	Yes
Melissa Mongillo	Yes
Erica Nuzzo	Yes
Dan Foley	Yes
Rebecca O'Hara	Absent
Karla Malerba	Absent
Ken Marcucio	Absent
Ivey Speight	Absent

Ms. Tovar: Making motion.

Mr. Foley: Mr. Foley.

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Mr. Gildea: Motion carries.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Motion that the Board of Education approve the financial report through October 31st, 2025 as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Jim Gildea	Yes
Kim Tovar	Yes
Melissa Mongillo	Yes
Erica Nuzzo	Yes
Dan Foley	Yes
Rebecca O’Hara	Absent
Karla Malerba	Absent
Ken Marcucio	Absent
Ivey Speight	Absent

Ms. Tovar: Making motion to approve the financial report through October 31st, 2025 as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

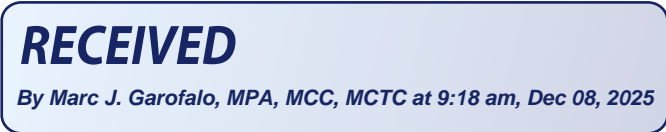
Mr. Foley: Second.

Mr. Trainor: Good evening. It’s a busy time in the Business Department. We are in budget season. We are in audit season. Then handling the day to day. If the year were to end today, we would be \$22,000 to the good. Last meeting I believe that was at 30,000. What has taken that down is school supplies and facility supplies. We are moving right along. We’ve got processes that are working very well. We are running incredibly efficiently right now. We still got a few more grants to apply for. But we are really in a great position as of today.

Mr. Gildea: Motion carries.

CONNECTICUT HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATES (CHCA)

Motion that the Board of Education approve the contract between the Derby Board of Education and Connecticut Health Care Associates District 1199 NUHCE AFS CME AF L-CIO for the period of July 1st, 2025 through June 30th, 2029. Passed with a motion made by Ms. Kim Tovar and a second by Ms. Melissa Mongillo.



Jim Gildea	Yes
Kim Tovar	Yes
Melissa Mongillo	Yes
Erica Nuzzo	Yes
Dan Foley	Yes
Rebecca O’Hara	Absent
Karla Malerba	Absent
Ken Marcucio	Absent
Ivey Speight	Absent

Ms. Tovar: Making motion.

Ms. Mongillo: Second.

Ms. Mongillo: What we intended to do with this contract was to ensure that we don’t have turnover and we looked at neighboring Towns and tried to bring the rates up to ensure that we retain our talent. And we also mirrored items in other contracts including the insurance rates which we have changed in the City.

Dr. Conway: That’s about it. Those are the big items was trying to get compensation where surrounding contiguous Districts are as well as we have with each of the other contracts. Vice Chair mentioned to bring equity to the contribution rate toward insurance. We accomplished both of those.

Mr. Gildea: Motion carries.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DERBY BOARD OF EDUCATION AND DERBY EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Dr. Conway : If we can table 12. We just got the completed document today, late today. If we received it earlier, we’ll just move it to the next docket. It’ll give Brett from the union side opportunity to review the final document. And then we’ll do the approval.

Mr. Foley: Has the union voted on it?

Dr. Conway: They did. They ratified it.

Mr. Foley: I was looking, I couldn’t find the contract itself. I’m saying, where did it go. You just explained it. Thank you.



Dr. Conway: Yes. Got you. Yes.

Motion that the Board of Education table the contract approving the contract between the Derby Board of Education and Derby Education Associate. Passed with a motion made by Ms. Kim Tovar and a second by Mr. Dan Foley.

Jim Gildea	Yes
Kim Tovar	Yes
Melissa Mongillo	Yes
Erica Nuzzo	Yes
Dan Foley	Yes
Rebecca O’Hara	Absent
Karla Malerba	Absent
Ken Marcucio	Absent
Ivey Speight	Absent

Ms. Tovar: Making motion.

Mr. Foley: Second.

Dr. Conway: Just for the record, we’re only postponing for no other reason. We just received the final document today. But that the teachers have agreed to it. I’d also like an opportunity to invite as many teachers that want to join by Zoom or in person when we review the final vote.

Mr. Gildea: Motion carries.

JCI SOLAR PROJECTS

Dr. Conway: We did look at trying to combine these. We do have to do them separately per JCI in terms of the passage of these three motions. So, it’ll be a similar motion and there is a project number that has to be read as part of that if we could for the record for the State and for JCI. And this will allow funding because we’re a school district to then go back to the City and ask for reimbursement for the City project for the JCI Solar Projects.

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BRADLEY SCHOOL – JCI SOLAR PROJECT COMPLETION

The Board of Education approve the motion for completion of the JCI Solar Projects 21DASYO37064PV0820 - \$553,523.64 – Bradley Elementary. Passed with a motion made by Ms. Kim Tovar and a second by Ms. Erica Nuzzo.

Mr. Gildea: I’m just clarifying, the projects were all done and this is just for us approving it so it can be forwarded reimbursed.

Mr. Trainer: Correct. The projects were officially completed on September 11th and this is the process to get the reimbursement.

Jim Gildea	Yes
Kim Tovar	Yes
Melissa Mongillo	Yes
Erica Nuzzo	Yes
Dan Foley	Yes
Rebecca O’Hara	Absent
Karla Malerba	Absent
Ken Marcucio	Absent
Ivey Speight	Absent

Ms. Tovar: Making motion.

Ms. Nuzzo: Second.

Mr. Gildea: Motion carries.

IRVING SCHOOL – JCI SOLAR PROJECT COMPLETION

The Board of Education approve the motion of the completion of the JCI Solar Projects 21DASY037065PV0820 - \$509,828.00 – Irving Elementary School. Passed with a motion made by Ms. Kim Tovar and a second by Ms. Erica Nuzzo.

Jim Gildea	Yes
Kim Tovar	Yes
Melissa Mongillo	Yes
Erica Nuzzo	Yes



Dan Foley	Yes
Rebecca O’Hara	Absent
Karla Malerba	Absent
Ken Marcucio	Absent
Ivey Speight	Absent

Ms. Tovar: Making motion.

Ms. Nuzzo: Second.

Ms. Tovar: Motion carries.

DERBY MIDDLE SCHOOL – JCI SOLAR PROJECT COMPLETION

The Board of Education approve the motion of the completion of the JCI Solar Projects, 21DASY037063PV0820 - \$762,422.87 – Derby Middle School. Passed with a motion made by Ms. Kim Tovar and a second by Mr. Dan Foley.

Jim Gildea	Yes
Kim Tovar	Yes
Melissa Mongillo	Yes
Erica Nuzzo	Yes
Dan Foley	Yes
Rebecca O’Hara	Absent
Karla Malerba	Absent
Ken Marcucio	Absent
Ivey Speight	Absent

Ms. Tovar: Making motion.

Mr. Foley: Second.

Ms. Mongillo: Motion carries.

Thank you.

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REQUEST FOR DERBY HIGH SCHOOL PARTICIPATION TO RESEARCH STUDY

Motion that the Board of Education approve the participation of Derby High School and the Yukon Research Study titled Knowledge of Injury Prevention in Connecticut High School Female Athletes and their coaches as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools. Passed with a motion made by Ms. Kim Tovar and a second by Ms. Erica Nuzzo.

Jim Gildea	Yes
Kim Tovar	Yes
Melissa Mongillo	Yes
Erica Nuzzo	Yes
Dan Foley	Yes
Rebecca O'Hara	Absent
Karla Malerba	Absent
Ken Marcucio	Absent
Ivey Speight	Absent

Ms. Tovar: Making motion.

Ms. Nuzzo: Second.

Ms. Mongillo: Motion carries.

ACHIEVEMENT UPDATE

Dr. Conway: Dr. Rafferty.

Ms. Tovar: Your turn.

Dr. Rafferty: Thank you. So, I'm actually going to do this in partnership with others. So, you'll see as we go along. There will not be a quiz, but you may remember in the past that there was always a theme every time we presented an achievement. One year was all about perseverance and sticking with it. One year was about the hidden lives of learners because we wanted you to really pay attention to stuff that's outside of smarter bounds.

And so, tonight's big theme is, it's really a two-word prong, which the big idea was about being present. But our theme is the word UP. And so, you'll see, if you don't know the movie, right. So, things are really looking up here. And tonight, we're going to give you the

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sense of why we think the theme this year is UP. We don't think. We know the theme is UP. Showing a short little video. It's two minutes. So, we really get to talk about this theme that is really powerful. And I just want to reiterate, a lot of the stuff, I'm going to go through quickly, but Dr. Conway has always stressed that we want to be as transparent as we can but we don't want to bore you to death looking at chart after chart. But we want to make them all readily accessible. So, there were two really big things that we focused in on.

And one was, we really wanted to pay attention to who the kids are. Like, what do they need. What are the strategies that are going to help them. How can we accelerate their learning. And then, knowing where they are. So, if they're not coming to school, why is that happening and if they're showing up late. And I would say, you know, I've been in a number of districts, I haven't seen a district work harder on reaching out to families than Derby. Our staff goes above and beyond. The change that we've seen in chronic absenteeism if you heard in convocation oh, you were there, the Commissioner for the State of Education highlighted what a big improvement we made. And that made us start to look a little bit more closely. That was one of the first things we noticed. We're like, wait a second, there's this big drop in attendance and then there's this continuous year after year uptick in math. But what's most impressive about it, is that all the groups are moving up. Some districts can raise a certain group of kids, but not all. But in Derby, that's what's happening. And so, that's great in math. But then we went to look at ELA and we're like, wait, the same thing's happening there.

Well, let's start to look at it as many lenses as we can. So, when we started to, what's the data we should be looking at. We've been pretty clear that growth is what we're most interested in. That's the thing that's most reliable measure to talk about. We're following the same group of kids. And this slide here, I put the links in there. If you're really bored and you love spreadsheets, you'll see chart after chart after chart that shows you how we found the theme of UP. So, I just showed you two snapshots. But you'll watch as we flip through. It doesn't matter how I change the lens. Just in case you missed it on the slide before, I just wanted to highlight a couple of things that, you know, thinking about giving kids the opportunity and making sure we had access to high quality interventions or making sure they were here in school. We targeted things that we think that we know close the gap.

And so, it doesn't matter how we look at it. We could see the same story. The bars are trending up. So, we came out of COVID. And little by little we keep trending UP. It doesn't matter how you look at it. I put eighth grade here because we know when we send kids off to high school that's when we formally kind of stop teaching reading and writing. High school teaches them how to really apply all that stuff. But the trend is the same no matter how we look at it. So, we kept changing the lens over and over and we kept coming up with

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the same story, UP. And then we looked at curriculum measures. This is just a sample. We have assessments that are outside the Smarter Balance or the State test. And guess what. The story is the same. So, this is just one sample but we keep saying the same thing over and over. And if you don't really like charts and you like reading then go to the next slide because it summarizes it for you. And they tell you these are the big things. But that's just one sample of it. And then we said, well, let's look at this is, ninth graders are on track for graduation. And guess what. We're beating the State and we continue to go UP. And if I go to the next one, same story. Like, if this was your stock portfolio. Like, I'm doing great. And if I go to the next one and compare it to the State. It doesn't matter, when we keep looking at it, we keep seeing the same story.

The other thing we did, this happens to be the SAT scores. If you had not had an opportunity to read the text, these are the high school SAT scores. Yes, thanks for clarifying that. Because we are going through them quickly but you have access to all of this and of course, you can all look through it more with a fine-tooth comb if there's a thing you're really interested in. Please know that we're doing the same thing. We're just trying to give you the summary. Tonight, I said to you that I am going to share the stage. So, one of the things we thought might be helpful is if we showed you all the scores that are underneath and I'm going to give my colleagues a change to come up here.

This is a positive thing. And then you go inside to look at the data. So, the next one is like a cautionary tale. When you're looking at data, just be careful when you're looking at one thing here and there. We're trying to get you to focus on the trend. Because some things are statistically insignificant. So, when you look at the color codes, you might see a red or a green and we don't want you to misinterpret it and say oh, look they went down. Sometimes it's less than a percentage point. I couldn't even show you that student because it's not a full student. That's why I want you to be careful when you make those conjectures about it. And if you're experienced like I am, you may remember back in the day NBC used to have this one to grow on. And they do a public service announcement. Hey, one to grow on. A little star would shoot across the screen. So, today, I'm going to turn it over at this point and let my colleagues from each of the schools give you one or two things to grow on that they can talk to you about their school.

Dr. Conway: This is what the State puts out in every State and in every School.

The principals and vice principals from each school further updated the Board on their Achievement Update in each school.

Mr. Gildea: All the schools presented this evening went up 20 to 22 schoolwide.

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Dr. Conway: A quick graph to show you the Districts in our DRG. 4.6 It was a surprise today. They put a chart up on Zoom. Derby was recognized out of 17 Districts that showed growth and we're an Alliance District as well. Here is specifics to our DRG.

All four schools went up. Went up 2.8. State average is 1.3. In math, grades three through eight, high need students went up 2.4 compared to State's 1.4. The chronically absents of Derby students decreased 8.8 percent compared to the State's a half percent. Same thing with the high needs students for chronic absenteeism decreased it 9.8 percent compared to State's .7 percent. Derby went up in performance 20 out of 22, went up 4.6 percent. Our DRG's average of 6.8 percent. Those areas really went up in double digits.

Mr. Gildea: For all the schools who presented this evening, I mean that's remarkable, everyone's schools went up. And we went up in 20 of 22 areas schoolwide. That is incredible. We have a lot of challenges in the school system. We've actually had a zero income budget over a number of years. We have transitional school districts, so many challenges in front of you and to go up in 20 of 22 categories, we all get it. We understand what that means. It's remarkable. It's amazing. Thank you.

Dr. Conway: Here's a quick graph to show you a comparison to the districts in our DRG. So, Derby saw the second highest gains out of all districts in our DRG at 4.6. What was a surprise today is during our Alliance District meeting with the State, they put a chart up. I didn't know it was coming on our Zoom, but Derby was recognized one of only 17 districts that saw growth in their accountability index score higher than that of the State. And they pointed out the fact that we're an Alliance District as well. But here's specific to our DRG. You can see the growth there as well.

As Mr. Chairman just shared, Derby's overall and this goes to Mr. Foley's question earlier as well, our overall accountability index score went up 4.6 percent outpacing the State's one percent and our DRG's average of 2.68 percent.

What was real neat is those areas where we went up in double digits, which to me, speaks highly of the amazing people in our buildings and in our classrooms what they do every day to realize that type of growth for our students. So, just super proud of the work that all of our administrators, as well as every teacher, paraeducator, everybody in our buildings is doing. It really takes everybody in that building from our food service to custodians, to secretaries to make everything happen. Everybody in their role to make this type of growth happen for our students. And it's really it's about the students.

Dr. Rafferty: So, you know how I said we have a theme every year. We're predicting it's going to be UP again. And on the last slide, we started to build an action plan because we want to continue to go up. And we recognize that. We want to be planful. More good is to come.

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Mr. Gildea: Thank you.

Dr. Conway: There's a link here that will take you to the plan. It will take you to the plan that we've already started to continue the growth.

Ms. Tovar: If somebody wanted to know all of this type of information, is it available on our website?

Dr. Conway: This is not yet. It will be after this.

Ms. Tovar: Because those on social media who want to know all their questions and all of that.

Dr. Conway: Yes.

Mr. Gildea: Love it.

Mr. Foley: I appreciate the achievement that the school system has made. Could I possibly get some kind of graph or information of how we stand Statewide, not just our DRG, but Statewide.

Dr. Conway: Sure.

Mr. Foley: I do appreciate all the efforts been put in by everyone in the school system.

EXECUTIVE SESSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Motion that the Board of Education enter into Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent's contract and take possible action. Passed with a motion made by Ms. Kim Tovar and a second by Mr. Dan Foley.

Jim Gildea	Yes
Kim Tovar	Yes
Melissa Mongillo	Yes
Erica Nuzzo	Yes
Dan Foley	Yes
Rebecca O'Hara	Absent
Karla Malerba	Absent
Ken Marcucio	Absent
Ivey Speight	Absent

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Ms. Tovar: Making motion.

Mr. Foley: Second.

Motion that the Board of Education increase the Superintendent's salary by three percent retroactively starting from July 1st, 2025 to June 30th, 2026. Passed with a motion made by Ms. Kim Tovar and a second by Ms. Erica Nuzzo.

Jim Gildea	Yes
Kim Tovar	Yes
Melissa Mongillo	Yes
Erica Nuzzo	Yes
Dan Foley	Yes
Rebecca O'Hara	Absent
Karla Malerba	Absent
Ken Marcucio	Absent
Ivey Speight	Absent

Ms. Tovar: Making motion.

Ms. Nuzzo: Second.

Mr. Gildea: Motion carries. Congratulations.

ADJOURN

Motion that the Board of Education adjourn its meeting. Passed with a motion made by Ms. Kim Tovar and a second by Ms. Melissa Mongillo.

Jim Gildea	Yes
Kim Tovar	Yes
Melissa Mongillo	Yes
Erica Nuzzo	Yes
Dan Foley	Yes
Rebecca O'Hara	Absent
Karla Malerba	Absent

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Ken Marcucio **Absent**

Ivey Speight **Absent**

Marianne Samokar

Recording secretary

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